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An

Inaugural Essay

on

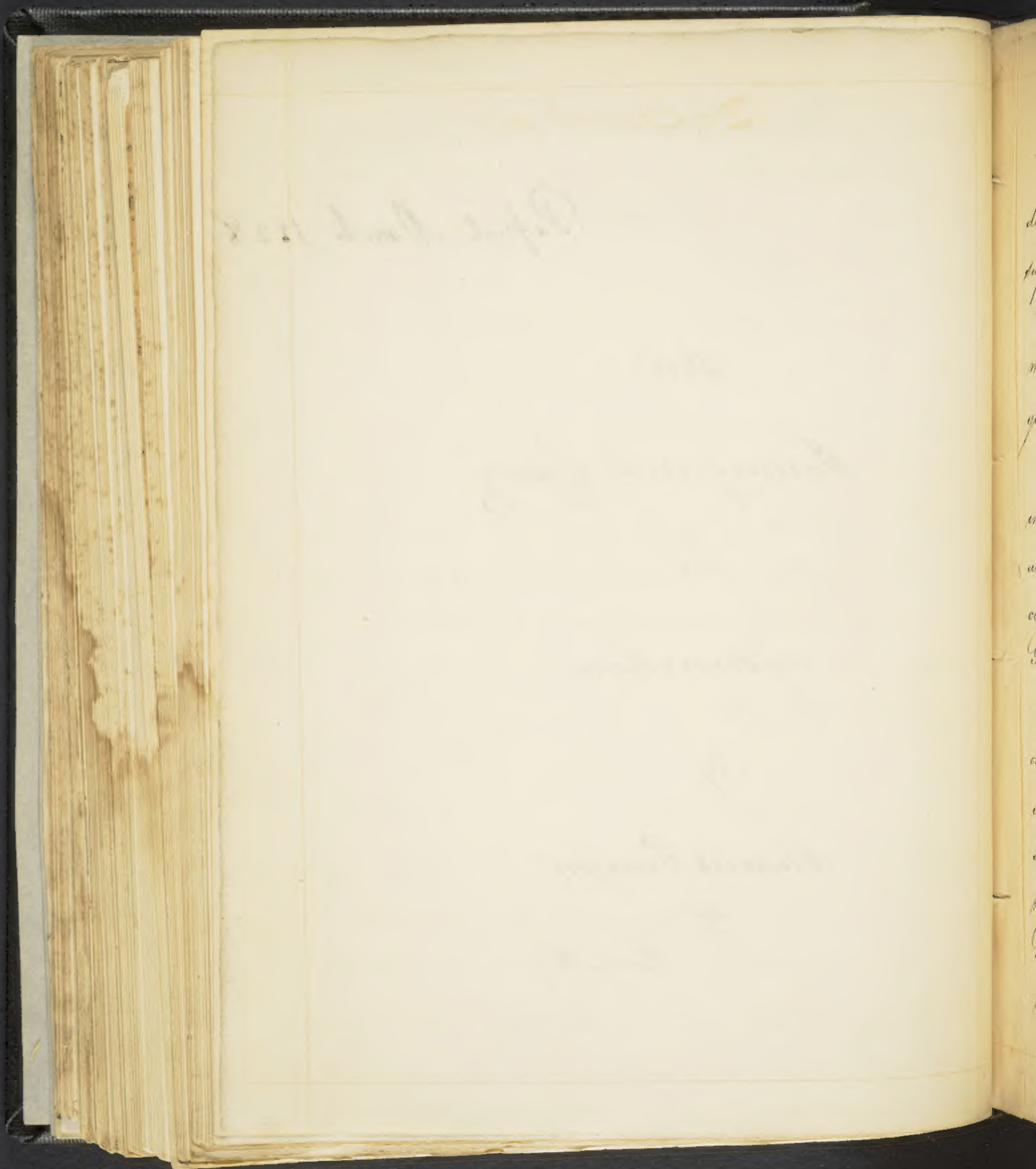
Gonorrhoea

by

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of

Penn^a.



Gonorrhoea

By the term Gonorrhoea is literally meant a morbid discharge of semen from the Urethra in which the ancients supposed this disease to consist.

But Gonorrhoea is now clearly understood by the medical world to be a secretion of the lining membrane and glands of the Urethra.

Gonorrhoea was known as far back as the time of Moses; in whose laws a "Running of the Reins" is expressly mentioned and this circumstance has been used as we shall hereafter have occasion to notice, as an argument to prove the non-identity of Gonorrhoea and Syphilis.

How long it is after exposure to infection before Gonorrhoea or Clap manifests itself is uncertain, - it has been known to happen in a few hours, and in some instances not until the lapse of several weeks, in general we say from the third or fourth to the tenth or twelfth day, is the average period. This circumstance however, does not appear to have the least effect on the nature of the symptoms. Many cases where the running appeared early after

exposure, have proved very mild, whereas on the contrary in some most obstinate and intractable cases, the disease has not been developed until a considerable time had elapsed.

Are Gonorrhoea and Syphilis identical diseases?

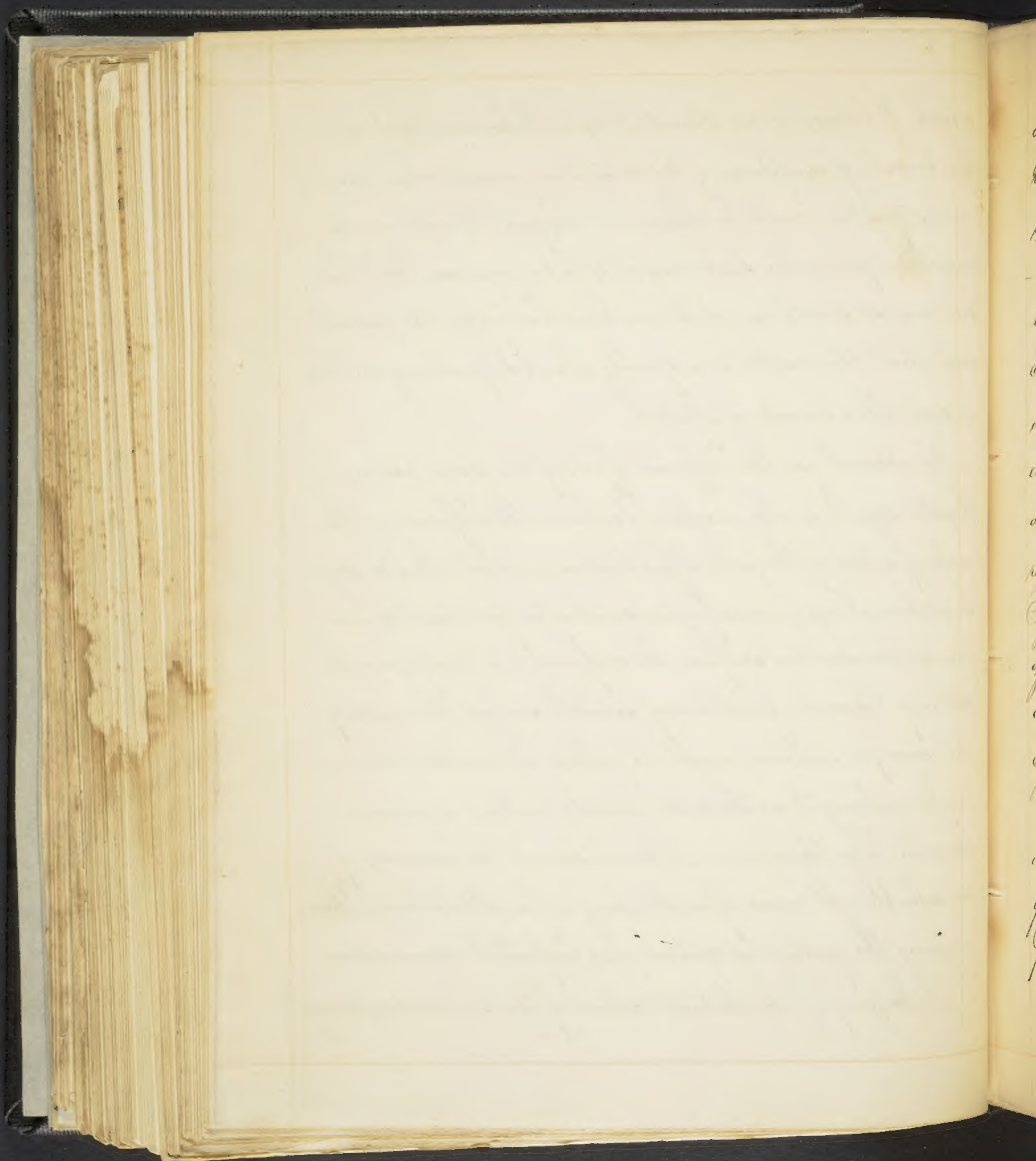
This is a question which has long agitated the medical world. The two great leaders in the controversy are Hunter and Bell. The former is an advocate for the affirmative, and in support of his position he advances some facts deserving of notice. His assertions with regard to the Island of Otaheite I shall at present pass over, as they have already been sufficiently refuted: but I shall notice one or two of his arguments drawn from the nature of the diseases themselves. He asserts that the matter produced in both is of the same kind: that is that the matter of Gonorrhoea will produce a Chancre and vice versa. Of the latter fact he gives no kind of proof at all, but in support of the former, he relates the case of a gentleman* who had twice contracted a Gonorrhoea, and who about two months after each attack had symptoms of Lues Venerea. But setting aside the fact that Gonorrhoea and Chancre can both exist at the same time in the same person



which I believe is not denied, it is well known that all the secondary symptoms of Syphilis have occurred, when no marks of either could be discovered. This fact Hunter admits in another place. In such cases it is to be presumed that the sore was so small as not to have been observed by the patient, and that the matter was speedily absorbed, producing a Bubo, or some other secondary affection.

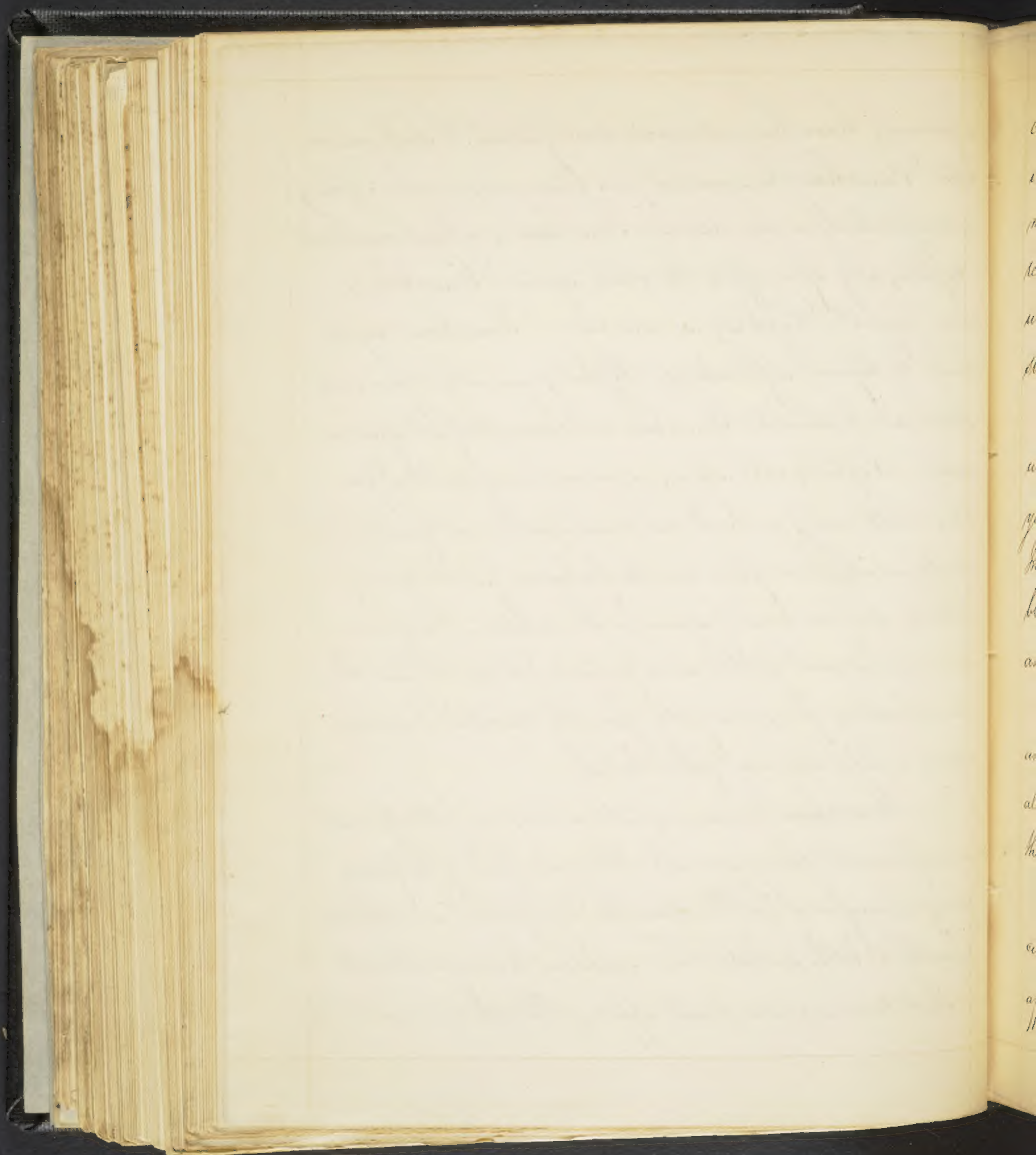
To account for the different effects of the same poison, Hunter says it is only necessary to observe the difference in the mode of action of the parts affected when irritated. Thus he says, Gonorrhoea always proceeds from a secreting surface, and Chancre from a non-secreting surface. In conformity to this opinion the matter of Chancre applied to any secreting surface, the inside of the nose for instance, ought to produce Gonorrhoea; whereas on the contrary it would most assuredly produce a genuine Chancre. These therefore are to be considered, the resources of one who thought more of establishing a favorite doctrine, than of giving the question a candid and impartial examination.

In proof of the distinct nature of the two diseases, many



arguments have been advanced, some of which I shall enumerate. Gonorrhœa has existed from time immemorial. Syphilis is comparatively a new disease: Gonorrhœa is a local complaint, Syphilis very often effects the whole system: Gonorrhœa is very frequent; Syphilis is more rare:—Gonorrhœa may be cured by topical applications, Syphilis generally requires constitutional treatment. Gonorrhœa will wear itself out spontaneously:—Syphilis will always go on increasing until it produces death unless medical aid is interposed, and finally the remedy on which we place our chief reliance for the cure of Syphilis, is of no kind of service in Gonorrhœa. Many more arguments are used for the same purpose, but as the fact I am contending for is now pretty generally conceded, it is unnecessary to enter into any further details.

Gonorrhœa commences with a sense of fullness, and an unpleasant itching over all the under part of the penis, glans and orifice of the Urethra, the lips of which are not unfrequently a little swelled. These symptoms having continued a short time, a running next appears. The itching is now



convergent rain, which is particularly great in no. 10, the
river. The whole river is in a channel, its glaze is very
much into it there is, and a small stream has exactly
formed by its appearance a stream. The cause of the
weather is sometimes in air, the sun coming in a small
stream, while at other times it is not.

The appearance of the river is, at first, a thin
white, watery fluid. This is followed by a thick, red, and
yellow, and it is, many of the appearances of common mud
in that case. The discharge is of a non-saline, and a disagreea-
ble odour resembling that of a acid, existing, the stream being
and not more pungent than the river.

It is, however, not the only kind of water, as with a
little more of the river, or the river of the river, as
the river is not the same, it is not the same, it is not the same
the whole of the river, it is not the same, it is not the same.

It is in the general of cases, there are all the other
circumstances, but would not be the same, it is not the same
appearing, even, it is not the same, it is not the same.



[illegible]

The other cases like Seminalis, & the singular case we
 have met, and symptomatic affection, of the sigmoid glands, to be
 placed here, although how we do it, is the central note is
 their relation is not necessary to be stated.

[illegible]

In some cases the effects of the disease are felt in the bladder, producing such irritation as that organ has



The patient is unable to retain any urine, but if it is retained
by so void it, with great pain & is accompanied by
the irritation has been known to be the effect of the
the kidneys, produce a fistula &c.

Sometimes also the patient is afflicted with a troublesome
venousness and is constantly urinating & is unable to sleep.

After the disease has continued some time and the inflamma-
tory symptoms have subsided it soon returns, in a
short time. The discharge which is at first thin & watery and
tenacious consisting of glabrous rods, enlarged in a stringy mass.
Hunter thinks that the urinary process for the urethra is
diseased in the urethra only. Heel is supposed to be diseased at or a
relaxation or debility of the urethra, but on the other hand it
will be found that it is connected with a radical disease of the
urethra. There is no need of a catheter & Heel is to be injected.

It is a dispute in what manner the disease is com-
municated to the urethra. It is most probable that the morbid
matter being insinuated between the folds of the urethra or is
gradually spread along the passage by mixing with the mucus.



which it meets with in great abundance.

Donorrhoea attacks, generally, the male as well as the female, but it is by no means confined to the latter. *Syphilis*, *Gonorrhoea*, *Leucorrhoea*, *Chlororrhoea*, *Menorrhoea*, &c. as a general rule the symptoms are much the same in women as in men, though they are often modified.

Donorrhoea in women is liable to be confounded with *Leucorrhoea*. By attention, however, to the preceding circumstances, a diagnosis can commonly be formed. But when a woman from modesty or interest is induced to conceal the nature of the disease, it may be very embarrassing to the practitioner to deal with any kind of certainty on the real state of the case.

The remedies are very properly divided into constitutional and local. But as I have long ago stated the disease to be a local affection I am naturally met at the very threshold of my observations by the enquiry how can general remedies be of service? To this interrogatory a satisfactory answer might be given founded both on analogical reasoning and practical experience. That for instance is more common than to treat



Podagra, & vitiligo, & aneurism, & other a local affec-
tion evoked by the internal exertion of Vaccinium Puturii?

There is no fact in medicine better settled than that certain arti-
cles have a particular determination, a particular bias. They
diaphoretic, emunctory, act on the skin & excretoria, on the Trac-
tea &c. On this ground alone the utility of a medicine is manifest & more
than ought to be insisted. But the practitioner has something so much
than they are able to do. It is, however, the use which guide to
health, to attack Malade, and even candid & ambitious who try
given these remedies a fair trial, cannot but acknowledge the
effect of impudence or partiality the propriety of the practice. I am
now endeavouring to submit

With these remarks I proceed to the consideration of
particular remedies. As Chlor is an affection of the Human organ;
it might very naturally be supposed that Quercus would
be of especial service. This accordingly is found to be the case.
At the very head of the list stands the Pissum Exanthema
This has long been celebrated for its virtue, in Venerea, it is
well known to the vulgar who not unreasonably resort to it



without medical advice. Independent of its diuretic power, it
exercises a specific effect on the Mithra catarrh, & in just a
manner, as to the direction of the course of a gonorrhoea, given
there was a specific remedy, I have an example in the
case before us; and I think not unusual to a term that the
Galsam is almost as certain a cure as that as Iark is for
Intermittent Fever. It is the custom with some to defer the
administration of this agent until the subsidence of all the inflam-
matory symptoms; but I have the highest authority & reason,
that it should be given at the very commencement of the disease.
It is admirably well adapted to allay many of the distressing
symptoms of Mithra Catarrh & Mithra.

The ordinary mode of exhibiting the Galsam (Gosawa) is on
Sugar, or mixed with a sweet wine or Milk in the dose of thirty
or forty drops three times a day or directly before each meal. To
prevent its nauseating effects it has been customary of late to sus-
pend it in water, and then add a little tincture of Mithra, which
forms it into a very small globule in this state it may be taken
with great facility. The more completely to disguise its taste, the



Balsam has been mixed up with various articles, such as Sugar the
Yolk of Eggs &c. Any of these may be very good, but one which I think
particularly beneficial, is a mixture of equal parts of Balsam of Tolu
and Sweet spirit of Nitric acid. Such a combination not only
have the specific effect of the Balsam, but also the diuretic effect
of the Nitric acid. I believe it is the best way in which the
article can be administered. I am certain that by this alone I have
seen many complete cures effected in the course of a few days.

It is also customary with some to administer the Balsam of Tolu
with a portion of Spirits of Turpentine. This is said to be a very
beneficial mixture.

With regard to the manner in which Balsam of Tolu is to be
used in the case of Hemorrhoids little or nothing is known. I suspect it
may be that it is by a specific effect on the primary organs to which it is
applied. This need not astonish us, it is but one of many
examples of the secret workings of nature and the case cannot be
better exemplified than by the operation of Ergot on the gravid
Uterus. As well might we attempt to enumerate the myriads of
luminaries that beset the firmament of heaven, as to explain



the cause of these wonderful effects. I should be sorry to see
objection to the use of the Balsam Copaiva that its mode of
operation is understood. It is enough to know that it does display
most striking powers on the disease of which I am treating and
the circumstance alone should afford sufficient reason for its
universal employment.

I take the Sine Cubeba or Cubeba has excited
great attention on the cure of Clap. The dose of the powder is
from ℥j ℥iij two or three times a day. I know nothing of it
myself having never either employed it or seen it employed. I believe
the general opinion is that it is totally inert and inefficacious and
such I imagine will be found to be the case. At any rate how
ever powerful it may be I do not think we should employ it to
the exclusion of such medicines as the Balsam Copaiva.

In aid of the above measures we should resort to the
use of Mucilaginous and Demulcent drinks, such as Barley Water,
Flax seed Tea, Gum Arabic Water, &c. These should be taken in
large quantities and frequently repeated. They probably defend the
tender surface of the Urethra from the acrimonious discharge.



In addition to this they are highly nutritious to the system, which is generally in a debilitated state. In whatever way however they act, they are certainly of acknowledged utility and should therefore never be omitted.

With regard to purgers I must say a word! It has been supposed that as active Cathartics should be used in this as in every other inflammatory affection. This however is totally untrue. Laxatives only should be given which is very apt to happen, and which is always prejudicial. To accomplish this end the Saline purgatives may be given in small doses of $\frac{3}{4}$ or so daily. This mode of proceeding will be found to answer every purpose.

Little however will these curative measures avail unless a proper attention be paid to Diet. This in every instance should be strictly regulated. All animal Food must be entirely precluded! the patient should confine himself to milk, the farinaceous and Vegetable matters. Wine and other ardent and spirituous liquors are totally inadmissible! In the indulgence of such practices the cure of Gonorrhoea will be greatly protracted, and if ever effected at all, it will be at best imperfect. A rigid enforcement therefore of the above Dietetic measures



becomes absolutely necessary.

With these precautions the patient should be careful to avoid violent exercise particularly of the back. This, however, is to be done & the contrary made at exercise in the back as far from being injurious, will be beneficial by regulating the system which from the force of the disease is apt to be in an unhealthy condition.

These then are the general remedies made use of in Gonorrhea and it will be perceived that they are principally of the evacuant kind. Let it not however be supposed that they act by virtue of property; for there are many medicines that possess the evacuant power in a greater degree which nevertheless exercise no control whatever over Gonorrhea.

When the above remedies have been tried unavailingly and the running still continues, we must resort to local application made directly to the part affected. Even in the commencement when much swelling and pain exist nothing will be found more beneficial than to apply a poultice wet with Lead-Water all over the Penis. After the inflammatory symptoms have subsided we may



used in the use of Injection, into the Uterus with some good
 prospect of success. These have been composed of various articles, the
 more simple however are in every case to be preferred. At first we
 may commence with the bland matters, such as a solution of
 Gum Arabic, Muc sed Tia, Rose Water, Milk and Sugar &c
 Even cold water has succeeded. Afterward, we may use slight ex-
 urgent injections, as a weak infusion of Oak or Peruvian Bark,
 Solution of the white or blue Vitrol, or some of the Mercurial pre-
 parations, as the Corrosive Sublimate, the white Vitrol is most
 commonly employed: it is usually combined with the Sugar of Lead
 in the proportion of three grains of the former to four of the latter, in
 eight ounces of Water. But the best I have ever used is the following
 formula

℞ Aced Vine grs xiiij

Aqua Rosae ℥ iij

M^d add

Vinel Opii ℥℥. xxv

M. S. Sygel

When great irritation prevails, the wine of Quinum or sweet oil
 may be resorted to, Sometime, something more stimulating is



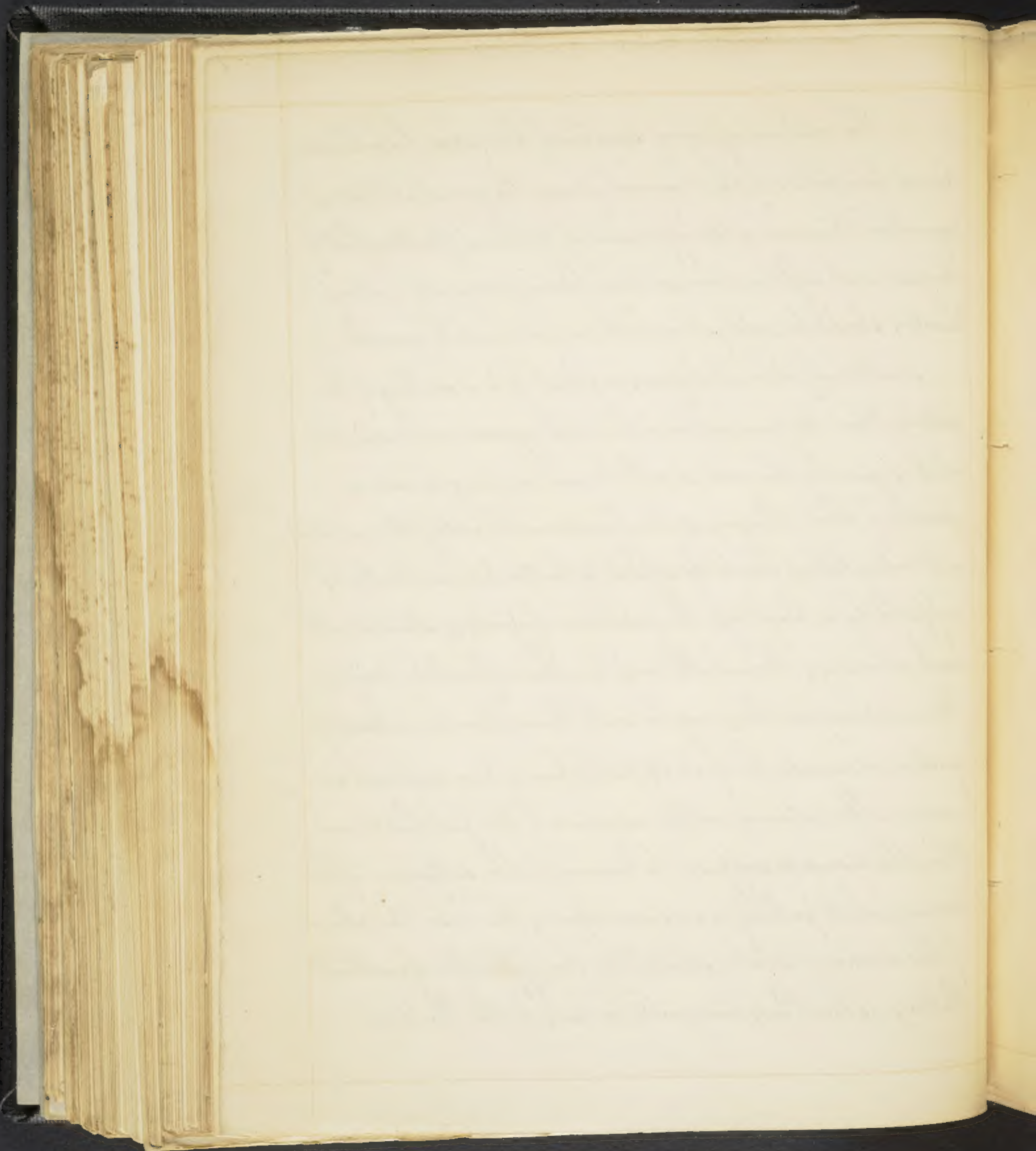
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necessary: in these cases, the Port or Claret wine may be used moderately diluted. (Mr. Physick has been in the habit of employing the Nitric Acid in a state of free dilution:—this often cures the disease when every other remedy has failed. These injections let it be understood are not applicable to every stage, but the judicious practitioner will watch the course of the disease and adapt his remedies accordingly.

Such is the treatment of Gonorrhoea as it ordinarily presents itself. But connected with this disease there are certain affections, which as being very distressing deserve particular attention. The first of these I shall mention is Chordee. Here Venesection, usually, is, say, out of the way, should not be omitted. But in general it will be found the topical detraction of blood by leeches is far more efficacious. Much relief is also sometimes derived from the application of frigoric mixtures to the penis. But of all remedies used in Chordee, the internal exhibition of Opium is to be preferred. And in fact a moderate dose of Laudanum administered at bed time will seldom fail of preventing the accession of this affection at bedtime.



7.
The next accompanying symptom of Gonorrhoea I shall mention is tumefaction of the Perineal glands. In general all that is required in this case is the application of Saturnine Poultries. But if the pain and inflammation run high, bleeding is requisite. Cooling Laxatives should be employed and all exercise carefully avoided.

Another affection which proves very distressing is swelling of the testicles. Where the pain, inflammation and pyrexia are considerable which is generally the case, it will become necessary to take a quantity of blood. Purging is also of indispensable utility. Fomentation and cooling lotions should be applied to the Scrotum and the Testes supported by a Bag-truss. The exhibition of opiates is attended with much advantages. Remarkable cures have been effected by Emetics. However discrepant this may be with theory, there is no kind of question as regards the fact, its truth having been confirmed in innumerable instances in the experience of the first Practitioners. When the disease is supposed to be owing to the suppression of the running, which probably is in some instances the case, the return of this discharge is to be solicited by the application of emollient Poultries to the Penis and gentle irritants to the Urethra.



10.
Changed sensations in the Bladder sometimes occurs —
the principal remedies in such cases, are bleeding, purgatives, opiates,
blisters, electricity &c which the judicious practitioner will adapt to
the urgency of the symptoms.

Gleet is supposed to be dependent upon universal debility.
In such cases, which undoubtedly may occur Bark, Chalybeates,
and other Tonicorants, may be employed Stimulating Purgatives
as Balsam Copaiva or the tincture of Cream of Tartar are also
of service, it is here too the tincture of Cantharide, has been used
with great advantage. Astringent Injections are also productive of
much relief. But Gleet is generally found to be owing to a par-
tial stricture of the Urethra. In such cases, the cure will of course
depend on the removal of the exciting cause and this object will
be best accomplished by the application of Bougies to the Urethra.

When
is this

